



# ACS *newsletter*

*May 2015*

**U.S. Embassy, Manila**

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## **Announcing Phase-Out of Additional Visa Pages for U.S. Passports**

For cost and security reasons, the U.S. Department of State has begun phasing out the option of additional visa pages for U.S. passports. Beginning October 1, 2014, all embassies worldwide will issue only 52-page passport books for full-validity passports. The thinner 28-page book option will no longer be available. Requests for additional visa pages will be accepted for existing passports through December 31, 2015.

Starting January 1, 2016, applicants who need extra pages will need to apply to renew their passports and be issued the standard 52-page book. Instructions on how to renew your passport or apply for visa pages for your existing passport can be found here on this website.



## A Friendly reminder from ACS: Check Your Passport Today

Renew your passport at least **90 days prior to expiration!**

Most countries require a minimum passport validity of six months before they will issue a visa or allow entry to their country. **NOTE:** It can take **2-3 weeks** to process routine

tourist passport applications so please plan your travel well in advance.

**Not all applicants are required to apply in person.** We encourage you to follow all instructions on our website (<http://manila.usembassy.gov/>) to find out if you are required to book an online appointment and to prepare your application. For those required to book an appointment, please print the passport checklist and bring all the requirements with you on the day of your appointment to avoid processing delays. Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time.



Manila (MNL)  
U.S. Embassy Manila  
American Citizen Services  
Passport Appointments



### ACS Appointment System - Instructions

#### U.S. CITIZENS SERVICES

#### Appointment System

1. To make an appointment, please click here.
2. To cancel an appointment, please click here.



**In Case of Emergency outside business hours, U.S. citizens may reach the Embassy Duty officer through the Embassy operator at (63)(2) 301-2000.**

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

### HOLIDAY

### LEGAL DATE

### CLOSING DATE

U.S. Memorial Day	Monday, May 25	Monday, May 25
Philippine Independence Day	Friday, June 12	Friday, June 12
U.S. Independence Day	Saturday, July 4	Friday, July 3
U.S. Labor Day	Monday, September 1	Monday, September 1

# Typhoon Season—Are you READY?

Typhoons and tropical storms can pose dangerous conditions due to high wind, potential flooding, and are common this time of year in the Philippines. There are several good resources for tracking a developing storm's intensity and direction. Two particularly good ones are [www.typhoon2000.ph](http://www.typhoon2000.ph) and [www.pagasa.dost.gov/ph](http://www.pagasa.dost.gov/ph). Planning ahead is one of the best ways to stay safe.

## Shelter in Place:

### Basic Emergency Supply Kit

Water, food, and clean air are important things to have if you are sheltering in place. Each family or individual's kit should be customized to meet specific needs, such as medications and infant formula.

- ☐ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for one week, for drinking and sanitation
- ☐ Food, at least a one week supply of non-perishable food
- ☐ Battery-powered radio
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First Aid kit
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant
- ☐ Personal hygiene items including feminine supplies, Moist towelettes, garbage bags and

plastic ties for personal sanitation

- ☐ Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Food for pets

It is possible that the power will be out and you will not have air-conditioning. Rethink your clothing and bedding supplies to account for growing children and other family changes.

Below are some other items for your family to consider adding to its supply kit. Some of these items, especially those marked with a \* can be dangerous, so please have an adult collect these supplies.

- ☐ Paper towels, paper cups, plates and plastic

utensils

- ☐ Cash, change—ATM machines and banks may not be functional
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container\*
- ☐ Paper, pencil
- ☐ Disinfectant\*
- ☐ Household chlorine bleach\*
- ☐ Medicine dropper
- ☐ Important Family Documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container

Information courtesy of [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Be advised, a severe weather bulletin has been issued by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for typhoon **Dodong**.

**Estimated rainfall amount is from heavy to at times intense within the 150-200 km radius of the Typhoon. This typhoon is expected to affect the eastern section of Visayas for the next 24 hours.**

### Location of Center:

(as of 4:00 a.m.) 1,040 km East of Surigao City

**Coordinates:** 10.2°N, 135.0°E

**Strength:** Maximum sustained winds of **130 kph** near the center and gustiness of up to **160 kph**

**Movement:** Forecast to move West Northwest at **15 kph**.

**Forecast Positions/Outlook: 24 hour (Friday morning):**

685 km east of Guiuan, Eastern Samar

**48 hour (Saturday morning):**

450 km east of Catarman, Northern Samar

**72 hour (Sunday morning):**

280 km Southeast of Casiguran, Aurora

March is Rabies Awareness Month in the Philippines

### OH, SUMMER! OH, RABIES!

It's summer! Time for beaches...outings...oh, the things you can do to beat the heat!

The heat of the summer also increases the incidence of rabies infection. Children on vacation play more where they are at higher risk of exposure to animals. In the Philippines, where both pets and stray animals proliferate, bites and scratches are common.

Rabies is a viral disease transmissible from animals to humans, usually by the bite or scratch of an infected animal. It is a highly fatal disease but also 100% preventable. It kills 200-300 Filipinos annually, with 40% of those being less than 15 years old. Although human rabies cases have been decreasing in the past five years, the Philippines still ranks among the top 10 worldwide.

Dog bites account for 98% of these cases, cats 1.25%, and non-bite exposures 0.75%. No confirmed cases have been related to bats or rats. Human to human transmission is theoretically possible, but no cases have been confirmed here. Non-bite exposures are due to handling of infected animals. According to the WHO, there are no proven cases of human infection due to consumption of cooked meat, milk or milk products. Nonetheless, consumption of potentially infected animal products should be avoided. The risk, however, is high in the sourcing, butchering and handling of infected meat. In the Philippines, dogs have been butchered as a part of indigenous rituals, primarily in northern Luzon. Butchering is now done more for commerce. According to the Philippine National Meat Inspection, dog meat is not inspected because dog trade is illegal. However, that law has not been strongly enforced.

The Anti Rabies Act of 2007 aims for total eradication of human rabies as early as 2016. The Department of Health (DOH) is raising awareness by designating March as Rabies Awareness Month. The campaign against rabies eradication shows much promise and has resulted in having several rabies-free provinces proclaimed, including tourist destinations such as Boracay and Coron. The DOH appeals to the general public to maintain responsible pet ownership and be advocates for anti-rabies activities in order to attain the ultimate goal of a rabies-free Philippines.

**Prevention:** The most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in humans is eliminating rabies in dogs through vaccination. The DOH has initiated massive campaigns for dog and cat immunization. Although the number of reported dog bites has increased greatly, the number of rabies cases has decreased markedly. The DOH also works with the Department of Education to include responsible pet ownership education in the school curriculum. Animal Bite Centers have been set up throughout the country to monitor and manage cases. In humans, while vaccination after a bite is the main priori-





ty, the National Rabies Control Program also highly recommends pre-exposure vaccination for children in high-risk areas, travelers with extensive outdoor exposure, expatriates living in areas with significant risks, and people whose occupation puts them in immediate risk of contact with the virus. The cost of the vaccine, though, is often prohibitive, whereas post-exposure prophylaxis is available free of charge from government centers.

**More tips:** Do not let your pets come in contact with stray animals. Do not touch dead animals. Do not approach or leave kids alone with other people's pets. Do not allow your pet to roam the streets. Take good care of your pet, and follow its immunization schedule. If a dog is charging at a person, stooping to pick up a rock, or pretending to, can often make the dog turn and run away.

**What to do if bitten:** Wash and flush the wound with soap and water for 10 to 15 minutes. If available, clean thoroughly with 70% alcohol or povidone-iodine. Take the victim to the nearest healthcare facility for further management. Gather information about the animal as much as possible. By law, the pet owner is required to shoulder all the medical expenses, including the cost of several vaccinations, should their pet bite a victim.

**What NOT to do when bitten:** Do not induce bleeding ("tandok"), do not go to mananambal (Filipino magic), and do not apply irritants such as chili powder, garlic, acids or alkalis.

**What to do with the animal:** Keep it confined in a cage or on a leash away from people and observe for at least 10 days. Provide food and water. If it shows signs of rabies, it must be humanely put to sleep.

**Signs and symptoms of rabies in humans:** Pain or itching at the site of the bite, fever, malaise, headache, hydrophobia, intolerance to light, air or noise, hyperactivity, spasms in the neck and throat. Incubation could be as short as 2 days or as long as years after. Once the symptoms start, it is almost always fatal.

Sources: *Department of Health, Philippines; Bureau of Animal Industry; National Epidemiologic Center; National Center for Disease Prevention, World Health Organization, International Society for Infectious Diseases; Philippine National Meat Inspection; CDC Yellow Book.*

## AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

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### Emergencies

For emergencies after office hours, please call (63) (2) 301-2000 and ask for the Duty Officer.



# *Save the date!*

The American Association of the Philippines and the American  
Recreation Club invite one and all to the  
**4th of July Celebration**



**Saturday, 4th of July | 1:00-8:00 pm**



**International School Manila, Taguig**



## **ATTRACTIONS**

**Fireworks | Kiddie Train | Photo Booth  
Art Contest | Games | Crafts  
Live Band | Magician | Marching Band  
Raffle | Firetruck | Silent Auction**



American  
Recreation  
Club

Where leisure is a pleasure

